by when the work on the proposed project is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) and (b) To equip the T-72 tanks available with Indian Army with modern features, development of an upgradation package was undertaken by DRDO which has since been completed. Under this programme some of the hardware was purchased from Poland. Action to productionise upgraded tanks has been initiated.

Unsatisfactory performance of sea-eagle missiles

42. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the performance of the sea-eagle missiles purchsed for the Navy has been found to be unsatisfactory;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any enquiry has been made to fix responsibility for purchasing sub-standard missiles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (c) The Sea Eagle-Missiles were acquired by the Navy in 1987-88 from British Aerospace, U.K. Prior to induction from UK, the capabilities of the Sea Eagle missiles (SEMs) were fully demonstrated during live firings from Sea Harrier Aircraft and, therefor, it is not correct to term the missiles as sub-standard. Recently in April, 1997, Navy carried out two practice firings and in both the cases some malfunctionings were noticed. Immediate measures have been initiated to identify the specific nature of the problem so as to rectify them and ensure the serviceability of the remaining missiles in stock.

Failure in enforcing warranty clause for servicing of missiles

43. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the IAF failed to enforce the warranty clause resulting in eleven missiles valued at Rs. 1.38 crores remaining unserviceable for the last 2—4 years during which 25—50% of its shelf has already gone; and

(b) if so, the reasons for this lapse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Autonomy to Armed Forces Medical College, Pune

44. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Armed Forces Medical College, Pune is seeking autonomy;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and advantages likely to accrue to the college on attaining autonomy; and

(c) the action taken on their demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above Questions do not arise.

अपर्याप्त रक्षा बजट आवंटन

45. **प्रो॰ विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा:** क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या थल सेनाध्यक्ष श्री शंकरराय चौधरी ने प्रधानमंत्री को पत्र लिखकर रक्षा बजट आवंटनों को अपर्याप्त बताया है;

(ख) क्या बजट आवंटन अपर्याप्त होने के कारण भारत की सुरक्षा खतरे में है; और